

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ST. PAUL FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE
COMPANY a/s/o STERLING CRANE,

07 CIV 7135 (LAP)

Plaintiffs,

ANSWER WITH
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

-against-

ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE AB, trading
as "ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE",

Defendants.
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Defendant ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE (answering defendant),
by its attorneys MAHONEY & KEANE, LLP, answers the Complaint of
plaintiff upon information and belief as follows:

FIRST: Answering defendant denies knowledge or
information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations
contained in paragraphs "1", "2" and "3" of plaintiffs' Complaint.

SECOND: Answering defendant ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE AB
admits it is and was a corporation organized and existing under
and by virtue of the laws of a foreign state with an office and
place of business c/o ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE, 194 Wood Avenue,
Suite 500, Iselin, New Jersey 08830 and except as specifically set
forth herein at length denies the allegations contained in
paragraph "4" of plaintiffs' Complaint.

THIRD: Answering defendant denies each and every
allegation contained in paragraphs "5", "6" and "7" of plaintiffs'

Complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

FOURTH: The Complaint fails to state a claim against answering defendant on which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

FIFTH: Answering defendant is not liable to plaintiff on the causes of action alleged in the Complaint.

AS AND FOR A THIRD SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

SIXTH: If there was any loss and/or damage to cargo as alleged in the Complaint it was occasioned by causes for which the answering defendant is exonerated under the United States Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, Title 46 U.S.C.A. § 1300, et seq.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

SEVENTH: If this Honorable Court finds that the plaintiff has suffered damages to cargo for which answering defendant is liable, said damages must be limited pursuant to 46 U.S.C.A. 1304 (5).

AS AND FOR A FIFTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

EIGHTH: If there was any loss of and/or damage to cargo as alleged in the Complaint, answering defendant is not liable to the plaintiff by reasons of the provisions contained in the bill(s)

of lading, contract of carriage, charter party, applicable tariffs, special contract, or dock receipt.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

NINTH: If there was any loss/and or damage to cargo as alleged in the Complaint, it was occasioned by causes for which the answering defendant is exonerated under the Harter Act, Title 46 U.S.C.A. § 190, et seq.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TENTH: Answering defendant puts plaintiff to its proof of compliance with the provisions for giving of notice and the commencement of suit as provided for in the aforesaid bill(s) of lading tariffs and other applicable contracts, law and in the United States Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1936.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

ELEVENTH: Any loss or damage to the goods, as alleged in the Complaint, that may have occurred while they were in the possession of custody of answering defendant or on board the carrying vessel(s) arose from the conditions of the goods when delivered to answering defendant or from wastage in bulk weights or from inherent defect, quality or vice of the goods, or insufficient packing, insufficiency or inadequacy of marks, latent defects not discoverable by due diligence, or by acts or omissions of the shipper(s) or owner of the goods, their agent or representatives,

and answering defendant is not under any liability for any such loss or damage.

AS AND FOR A NINTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

THIRTEENTH: (A) Due diligence was used to make the carrying vessel(s) seaworthy and to secure that they were properly manned, equipped and supplied, and to make the holds and other parts of the ships in which the goods were carried safe and fit for their reception, carriage and preservation in accordance with the provisions of the United States Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1936 and the aforesaid bill(s) of lading.

(B) Accordingly, if the goods sustained any loss or damage while they were on board the carrying vessel(s), due to any unseaworthiness of the vessels, which is denied, answering defendant is not under liability therefore.

AS AND FOR A TENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

FOURTEENTH: Plaintiff's claim is barred by the statute of limitations contained in both the aforesaid bill(s) of lading and the United States Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1936 and/or the Doctrine of Laches.

AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

FIFTEENTH: Any damages sustained by plaintiff, as alleged in the Complaint, were proximately, directly, and solely caused by the negligent acts of third persons over whom answering

defendant had and have no direction or control.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

SIXTEENTH: Plaintiff knowingly and intentionally assumed any and all risks inherent in the shipment(s) of the goods at issue by sea, which is a complete bar to recovery.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

SEVENTEENTH: Any injuries that may have been sustained by plaintiff, as alleged in its Complaint, occurred as a direct result of plaintiff's own negligent conduct, and not by any negligence of answering defendant and as such plaintiff is barred from recovery in this action.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

EIGHTEENTH: Plaintiff is guilty of culpable conduct in the events giving rise to the claims now asserted in plaintiff's Complaint, and its recovery, if any, must be diminished in proportion thereto.

AS AND FOR A FIFTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

NINETEENTH: Plaintiff herein has failed to mitigate its damages.

AS AND FOR A SIXTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWENTIETH: The forum is inconvenient and the Complaint

should be dismissed pursuant to the doctrine of forum non conveniens.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWENTY-FIRST: The action, or part thereof, is founded upon improper venue and/or should be transferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1404.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWENTY-SECOND: The terms of the bill of lading, tariff and/or other governing contracts between the parties require that this matter be heard in a forum other than this Court.

AS AND FOR AN NINETEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE
DEFENSE

TWENTY-THIRD: Plaintiff has failed to bring answering defendant within the personal jurisdiction of the Court.

AS AND FOR A TWENTIETH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWENTY-FOURTH: This Court lacks personal jurisdiction of the answering defendant.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-FIRST SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWENTY-FIFTH: Plaintiff has failed to make proper service of process upon answering defendant.

AS AND FOR A TWENTY-SECOND SEPARATE AND COMPLETE
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWENTY-SIXTH: This Answer is made without waiver of any jurisdictional defenses or rights to arbitrate or proceed in another forum that may exist between the parties.

WHEREFORE, defendant ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE AB, trading as "ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE" demands judgment dismissing the Complaint herein and awarding defendant ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE AB, trading as "ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE" costs, fees, including reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements of this action, and for such other and further relief as to the Court may seem just and proper.

Dated: New York, N.Y.
October 31, 2007

MAHONEY & KEANE, LLP
Attorneys for Defendant
ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE AB trading as
"ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE"

By: 

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